

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5388

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, CH, UR, US

SUBJ: PRC CHARGE TSCHI HUAI-YUAN, BIOGRAPHIC DATA

REF: BERLIN 5345

1. WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM DUTCH DCM BOT, WHO SEES HIS PRC
COUNTERPART TSCHI HUAI-YUAN OFTEN, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
CONCERNING TSCHI, WITH WHOM THE DCM HAD A DISCUSSION ON
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FEBRUARY 23 (REFTEL. WHERE TRAITS OF PERSONALITY ARE
REFERRED TO, THEY CONFORM TO OUR PERCEPTION OF THE MAN.

2. TSCHI IS 47 AND HAS SERVED IN THE GDR FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS, EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF INTERRUPTION WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN IN THE FORM OF A SHORT ASSIGNMENT TO BONN, A CAPITAL HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE AT LEAST VISITED. HIS WIFE, WHO HAS NOT BEEN WITH HIM DURING THESE YEARS, IS HEAD OF THE FRG SECTION OF THE GERMAN DEPARTMENT IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. SHE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR GDR AFFAIRS. TSCHI HAS MADE THE REMARK THAT THE RIFT IN GERMANY, IS ALSO A DIVISION THAT RUNS THROUGH HIS FAMILY. HE HAS ONE DAUGHTER STUDYING IN PEKING.

3. DURING THE PERIOD OF HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THE GDR. TSCHI HAS RETURNED TO THE PRC EVERY TWO YEARS FOR 2 1/2 MONTHS IN COMPLIANCE WITH WHAT IS APPARENTLY STANDARD HOME LEAVE POLICY FOR PRC DIPLOMATS. HE HAS SAID THAT AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TO PEKING ON SUCH OCCASIONS HE MUST SPEND THREE WEEKS WORKING IN THE FIELDS. DCM BOT BELIEVES THIS PERIOD INCLUDES IDEOLOGICAL INDOCTRINATION IN THE EVENING HOURS. TSCHI HAS SAID HE THEN SPENDS 4 WEEKS WITH HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER, AND 4 MORE WEEKS VISITING NOTEWORTHY PROJECTS IN THE PRC.

4. THE PEKING GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY SELECTS ITS DIPLOMATS FROM POLITICAL CIRCLES ON THE BASIS OF SUITABILITY. TSCHI ONCE MENTIONED THAT BEFORE ENTERING HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN SERVICE HE HAD BEEN A SECRETARY IN THE PRC YOUTH MOVEMENT.

5. TSCHI HAS RECENTLY OBTAINED THE DIPLOMATIC RANK OF COUNSELOR WHICH HE SAYS MEANS THAT HE CAN BE ASSIGNED ELSEWHERE. HE HAS WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM THE BOTTOM RANKS OF THE PRC EMBASSY IN BERLIN. HE CLAIMS THAT THE ASSIGNMENT POLICY IN PEKING IS TO KEEP DIPLOMATS AT A SINGLE POST UNTIL THEY REACH THE RANK OF COUNSELOR OR AMBASSADOR. THIS SUGGESTS THAT HE MAY SOON BE TRANSFERRED.

6. THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN BERLIN IS SMALL. THERE ARE 14 OFFICERS ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AND MOST ARE WITHOUT
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THEIR WIVES. APPARENTLY FEW SPEAK GERMAN. TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE BERLIN, CHINESE DIPLOMATS MUST FIRST SEEK GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROVAL. TSCHI HAS SAID THAT EVERY MORNING THERE IS A STAFF MEETING AT HIS EMBASSY DURING WHICH ALL HANDS, FROM THE DRIVERS ON UP, PUT ON THE TABLE, FOR PURPOSES OF REPORTING AND ANALYSIS, ANY INFORMATION THEY HAVE ACQUIRED DURING THE PREVIOUS 24 HOURS.

7. DCM BOT BELIEVES TSCHI HAS BECOME VERY BORED DURING HIS LONG STAY IN THE GDR. HE IS A MAN WHO IS PART

WESTERNIZED, AT HOME WITH WESTERN CULTURE AND SOPHISTICATED IN HIS TASTES. THIS SET HIM AND AMBASSADOR PENG APART FROM THE REST OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. TSCHI MOREOVER IS NOT A DOCTRINAIRE IDEOLOGUE. HE INVOKES IDEOLOGY RARELY AND GRASPS WESTERN WAYS WITH EASE. BOT HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT SCHI WOULD WELCOME AN ASSIGNMENT TO A CAPITAL OF SOME SOPHISTICATION. HE IS GENTLEMANLY AND APPARENTLY DOES NOT SMOKE BUT ENJOYS DRINKING. ONE CAN IMAGINE HIM ADVANCING TO SENIOR POSITIONS AS A CHINESE DIPLOMAT.

8. THE INTERPRETER WHO WAS PRESENT DURING GROVE'S DISCUSSION WITH TSCHI IS COMPETENT IN GERMAN AND ENGLISH. MR. WU'S FUNCTIONS OBVIOUSLY GO BEYOND INTERPRETING. HE ALWAYS ACCOMPANIES TSCHI, EVEN TO FUNCTIONS WHERE TSCHI'S FLUENT GERMAN REMOVES ANY LINGUISTIC BARRIERS. WU HAS HIS WIFE WITH HIM WHO INTERPRETS ENGLISH. SHE HAS COMPLAINED TO MRS. BOT ABOUT ISOLATION IN EAST BERLIN, AND HAS REMARKED THAT HER DREAM IN LIFE IS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES TO SEE THE PEOPLE AND CULTURE WHOSE LANGUAGE SHE HAS MASTERED.COOPER

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